

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9681

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG FR

SUBJ: FRENCH VIEWS ON ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS.

REF: STATE 110686

1. ECON/COMM MIN CALLED ON FROMENT-MEURICE (DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT QUAI) ON MAY 22 TO DISCUSS ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID GOF IS READY TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW EFFORT AT "CONCERTATION" BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS IF THE CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE. THE PRINCIPAL CONDITION NECESSARY FOR A FAVORABLE TRY IS ACCEPTANCE BY U.S. AND OTHER CONSUMERS OF EQUALITY BETWEEN ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS QUESTIONS IN ANY FUTURE DIALOGUE. HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THIS WOULD BE A SUFFICIENT CONDITION, BUT HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT WITHOUT IT A RESUMPTION OF DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCERS/LDCS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

2. FROMENT-MEURICE ASKED FOR A CLARIFICATION OF THE CONCEPTS IN THE SECRETARY'S KANSAS CITY SPEECH; SPECIFICALLY HE WONDERED ABOUT THE SCOPE, PROCEDURE AND TIMING OF A NEW PREPCON AND WHETHER THE U.S. POSITION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS QUESTIONS HAD CHANGED SINCE THE PARIS MEETING.

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MATERIALS QUESTIONS HAD CHANGED SINCE THE PARIS MEETING.

HE HAD READ THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AND NOTED THE STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. POSITION ON RAW MATERIALS HAD EVOLVED. ECON/COMM MIN DREW ON STATE 110686 IN RESPONDING BUT SAID FULLER ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WOULD PROBABLY COME IN SECRETARY'S MAKIN STATEMENT AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE IEA.

3. ECON/COMM MIN REFERRED AGAIN TO THE PROCEDURAL OPTIONS IN PARA 3 REFTEL. FROMENT-MEURICE INTERPRETED THE SECOND OPTION AS REPRESENTING A RAILROAD-SWITCHING OPERATION IN WHICH A SECOND PREPCON COULD BE USED TO PUT THE DIALOGUE REGARDING ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS ON THE RIGHT TRACKS. OTHERWISE, HE SAW SEPARATE DIALOGUES EMERGING FROM IEA AND OECD MINISTERIALS. HE WAS STILL NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE U.S. SAW ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS QUESTIONS HAVING AN EQUAL POSITION IN FUTURE DIALOGUES. IF SO, HE SAID HE SAW SOME HOPE. A CONTINUED EFFORT TO SUBORDINATE RAW MATERIALS TO ENERGY WOULD LEAD NOWHERE. HE BELIEVED THE POSITION OF THE PRODUCERS AND THE LDCS HAD NOT MOVED ENOUGH TO ACCEPT A NEW DIALOGUE ON ANY OTHER BASIS THAN COMPLETE EQUALITY OF THE TWO QUESTIONS.

4. THE GOF HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND VENEZUELA WERE ALL CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR AND THE URGENCY OF RESCHEDULING A DIALOGUE. THEY WOULD INSIST ON THEIR PROPOSED CONFERENCE AGENDA AS A STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION, BUT THEY MIGHT MAKE CONCESSIONS ON PROCEDURE. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID THE GOF HAS NOT HAD ANY EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH ALGERIA ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT HE THOUGHT THEY WERE NOT IN A HURRY, PERHAPS PREFERRING TO USE THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AS THE PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR ACHIEVING THEIR OBJECTIVES. HE ADDED THAT THE UN WAS NOT A PROMISING FORUM FOR PURSUING THIS SUBJECT.

5. ASSUMING SEPARATE WORKING GROUPS WERE SET UP, FROMENT-MEURICE THOUGHT THE LDCS/PRODUCERS WOULD ATTEMPT TO LINK PROGRESS IN ONE AREA WITH PROGRESS IN ANOTHER. UNDER THIS APPROACH, WHILE STEP-BY-STEP
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PARALLELISM WILL NOT BE NECESSARY, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT MAJOR PROGRESS ON ENERGY UNTIL WE HAD GIVEN SOMETHING ON RAW MATERIALS.

6. FINALLY, FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE THOUGHT THE NEXT PREPCON MIGHT HAVE TO BE AT THE LEVEL OF MINISTERS TO OBTAIN A DECISION.

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